

NETL Merit Staffing Vacancy Announcement

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY (NETL)

ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: NETL-10-21

OPENING DATE: 5/14/2010

CLOSING DATE: 5/20/2010

POSITION: General Engineer/Physical Scientist, GS-801/1301-15

LOCATION: Office of Research & Development (ORD)
Albany, Oregon

SUBJECT TO:

Agreement Covering Discoveries, Inventions and Improvements
DOE CTAP (See Attached)
DOE ICTAP (See Attached)
1st Year Probationary Period (See Notes)

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: None

SALARY RANGE: (Includes locality pay)

\$113,735 – \$147,857 per annum

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Government-Wide - Federal Career/Career Conditional Employees in the Competitive Service and Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after substantially completing an initial 3-year term.

All eligible Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (RW) employees will receive priority placement consideration for any vacancy within DOE under the DOE Internal Transition Assistance Plan (ITAP). RW employees will be considered and selected before any other candidate as long as the employee meets the qualification requirements for the position.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The position functions as the Subject Matter Technical Advisor providing high-level expertise and management advice to the Deputy Director, Office of Research and Development (ORD), which is part of the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and located in Albany, Oregon. ORD conducts first-class R&D in clean energy systems that is of critical importance to the nation; providing a “corporate R&D” function for FE programs; conducting long range exploratory research; developing enabling science for energy technologies; innovating and inventing new concepts;

supporting program, product, and new business development; initiating and conducting cooperative R&D with external partners; sponsoring education and outreach; and providing unbiased technical evaluations.

The incumbent explores and develops new opportunities and initiatives for business with ORD, providing specific direction on target opportunity areas. This includes prioritizing activities and assisting in or developing complete proposals that define the required scope, schedule, and financial commitment. Primary responsibilities include assessing the research efforts of ORD in materials science and engineering and in the production of prototype parts, castings, and/or plate or sheet from ferrous, non-ferrous, and refractory alloys; recovering or recycling valuable materials from wastes; improving material production; sequestering green house gas emissions; and improving efficiencies of high temperature melting or smelting systems.

In this capacity, the incumbent provides technical guidance and expertise to the Materials Performance Division, the Process Development Division, and the Materials Science and Engineering Focus Area Leader in the preparation of In-House R&D Work Proposals and Plans, as well as peer reviews and comments on technical publications, presentations, and invention disclosures.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have general and/or specialized experience and any selective placement factors as described below. This requirement is in accordance with the OPM Qualifications Standards Operating Manual, available in any Government Personnel Office, which specifies when and how education may be substituted for the experience.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGINEER:

- A. Degree: Professional engineering. To be acceptable, the curriculum must (1) be in a school of engineering with at least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics; **OR**
- B. If you do not meet the basic engineering requirement above, you may qualify with a combination of education and experience -- college level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering and (2) a good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - (1) Professional Registration -- Current registration as a professional engineer by any State, the District of Columbia, Guam, or Puerto Rico. Generally, such registration must require a written test. If you qualify for registration by means other than a written test (such as State grandfather or eminence provision), you are eligible only for the specialty field of your registration.
 - (2) Written Test -- Evidence of having successfully passed the Engineer-in-Training (EIT) examination and have completed all the requirements for either (a) a bachelor's degree in engineering technology (BET) from an accredited college or university which included

60 semester (90 quarter) hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences, or (b) a BET from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Eligibility is limited to positions that are within or closely related to the specialty field of the engineering technology program.

- (3) Specific Academic Courses -- Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences and engineering, which included the courses specified in Paragraph A. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of a professional engineering curriculum as described in Paragraph A.
 - (4) Related Curriculum -- Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a bachelor=s degree in engineering technology or in an appropriate professional field, e.g., physics, chemistry, architecture, computer science, mathematics hydrology, or geology, may be accepted in lieu of a degree in engineering, provided the applicant has had at least 1 year of professional engineering experience acquired under professional engineering supervision and guidance.
- AND**

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE: In addition to meeting basic qualification requirements, candidates must possess 1 year of specialized experience which is directly related to the position being filled and which is equivalent to the next lower level (GS-14) in the Federal service. Specialized experience typically involves research and development leadership experience in materials science and engineering involving advanced energy processes to produce prototype parts, castings, and/or plate or sheet from ferrous, non-ferrous, and refractory alloys; recover or recycle valuable materials from wastes; improve material production; sequester green house gas emissions; and improve efficiencies of high temperature melting or smelting systems in fossil energy technologies within an RD&D or similar technical organization.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL SCIENTIST:

- A. Degree: Physical science, engineering, or mathematics that included 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science such as mechanics, dynamics, properties of materials, and electronics. **OR**
- B. Combination of education and experience—education equivalent to one of the majors shown in A above that included at least 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science, plus appropriate experience or additional education. **AND**

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION: In addition to meeting basic qualification requirements, candidates must possess 1 year of specialized experience which is directly related to the position being filled and which is equivalent to the next lower level (GS-14) in the Federal service. Specialized experience typically involves research and development leadership experience in materials science and engineering involving advanced energy processes to produce prototype parts, castings, and/or plate or sheet from ferrous, non-ferrous, and refractory alloys; recover or recycle valuable materials from wastes; improve material production; sequester green house gas emissions; and improve efficiencies of high temperature melting or smelting systems in fossil energy technologies within an RD&D or similar technical organization.

Candidates for advancement within the General Schedule must meet time-in-grade requirements of 5 CFR, Part 300, Subpart F.

BASIS OF EVALUATION: Qualified applicants will be rated against the established quality ranking factors (QRF). The extent to which a candidate possesses each knowledge, skill, and/or ability will be determined by measuring the level of experience, education, and training as they relate to each quality

ranking factor. The quality ranking factors listed below have been weighted by the Selecting Official based on their relative importance to the position being filled. **DETERMINATION OF THE “BEST QUALIFIED” GROUP WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE CANDIDATE’S APPLICATION PACKAGE; THEREFORE, CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS EACH QUALITY RANKING FACTOR AND HIGHLIGHT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE. FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE QUALITY RANKING FACTORS MAY RESULT IN A LOWER RATING.**

1. Knowledge of the scientific and engineering principles and practices in materials science and engineering in regard to advanced energy processes to produce prototype parts, castings, and/or plate or sheet from ferrous, non-ferrous, and refractory alloys; recover or recycle valuable materials from wastes; improve material production; sequester green house gas emissions; and improve efficiencies of high temperature melting or smelting systems. (45%)
2. Ability to manage, organize, and execute interdisciplinary research projects and work effectively in both matrix and functional organizations. (30%)
3. Skill in written communications. (15%)
4. Skill in oral communications. (10%)

PERFORMANCE AND AWARDS: In addition to evaluation of the above quality ranking factors, the Selecting Official will also consider each candidate’s current or last annual performance appraisal and relevant awards as part of the selection process.

NOTES:

The U.S. Department of Energy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE: Federal law requires all employers to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all persons hired to work in the United States. All applicants are subject to Employment Verification (E-Verify).

RW will pay relocation expenses if a geographic move is required.

NETL provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the NETL HR Office. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

You must include your Social Security number on your application.

This position is not included in the bargaining unit.

Those applicants who do not meet the minimum qualification requirements within 90 days of the closing date of the vacancy announcement will be determined to be “not qualified.”

Eligible veterans may apply for Merit Promotion Vacancy announcements under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998. Recent amendments to the Act provide Veterans with the opportunity, if selected, for career conditional appointments.

Individuals with a disability and 30% disabled veterans may be considered under special hiring authorities.

Probationary period applies to applicants appointed to their first career conditional appointment. As a condition of employment, new employees are required to arrange for direct deposit of paychecks.

For more information about the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), please visit our website at www.netl.doe.gov. The status of all NETL vacancy announcements can be found at www.netl.doe.gov under career opportunities.

TO APPLY: Please complete the following steps to submit your application online:

1. Register with USAJOBS, which includes Building a resume:

Once you have completed the initial registration process with www.usajobs.opm.gov click on the **Resume** link. Next, click on the **Build New Resume** link if you have not created and stored a resume in USAJobs. NETL does not accept resumes from the **Upload New Resume** link.

Prior to applying online for the position, upload the required and recommended documents identified below by clicking on the **Saved Documents** link. To upload a document, click **Browse...** and select a file stored on your computer to include in your portfolio. Click on the “?” to the right of **Upload a New Document** for additional information. Once selected and named, click **Upload**. After you have successfully uploaded a document, you can click to View or Delete your document(s) at any time. Be advised that once a document has been uploaded it cannot be edited. If the uploaded file must be changed, then it must be deleted, corrected, and then uploaded again. Also, if you have applied for the vacancy and want to change uploaded information, then you must correct the uploaded documents and reapply for the vacancy.

2. Select the vacancy announcement to which you wish to apply:

Locate the vacancy announcement on USAJOBS. Review the announcement thoroughly, including the Who May Apply, Qualifications and Required Documents sections. These sections describe what type of applicant is eligible to apply, what education and experience is required to be qualified for the position and which documents you will need to submit to support your application. Click the **Apply Online** link on the right side of the page and then select one of your stored resumes to submit with your application. Click on **Apply for this position now** to start the submission of your application.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

****No attempt will be made to solicit missing materials from applicants who fail to submit them by the closing date. Incomplete applications will not be considered.****

All applicants are required to submit the following:

USAJobs Online Resume

Surplus Letter for RW Employee (if applicable)

Notification of Personnel Action (SF-50) (Copy of Most Recent)

Annual Performance Appraisal (Current)

DD-214 if applying under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.

College Transcript. (Unofficial transcript may be submitted, **or** a list of courses, grades earned, completion dates and quarter or semester hours earned can be a substitute for a transcript however, if selected an Official Transcript will be required.)

Foreign Education Equivalency (if applicable).

Your complete online application and any required supplemental documentation (e.g., college transcripts, SF-50 or equivalent) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement. It is also your responsibility to ensure that all documents are received on time and that the materials are readable. Failure to do so will result in your application being removed from consideration for this announcement.

RECOMMENDED DOCUMENTS:

Supplementary statement addressing the quality ranking factors which highlights aspects of your background as they relate to the knowledge, skills, and abilities required by the position. Note: Rankings will be based solely on information contained in your application package. **Failure to address the quality ranking factors may result in a lower rating.**

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

You may check your application status any time after the announcement closes. Go to the USAJOBS web site and select **My Account - Main Page** at the top of the page. Enter your Username and Password to sign in and click the **Application Status** link under **My Account**. We will update your status when changes are made. If you have other questions or need other assistance, you may use the Human Resources contact information above.

Questions regarding this announcement may be addressed to Recruit_Mgn@netl.doe.gov or call Human Resources at (304) 285-4016.

SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR SURPLUS OR DISPLACED EMPLOYEES

Department of Energy (DOE) SURPLUS OR DISPLACED EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY CONSIDERATION UNDER THE CAREER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CTAP)

If you are currently a DOE employee who has received a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation you may be entitled to special priority selection under the DOE Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). To be eligible for special priority selection under the DOE's Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) you must meet all of the following conditions:

1. Displaced Employee is: (A) a current DOE career or career-conditional competitive service employee in tenure Group I or II, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has received a RIF separation notice or notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside of the local commuting area; or (B) a current DOE employee in the excepted service, serving on an appointment without time limit, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has been given non-competitive appointment eligibility and selection priority by statute for positions in the competitive service, and who has received a RIF separation notice or notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment outside of the local commuting area.

Surplus Employee is: (A) a current employee serving under an appointment in the competitive service, in tenure Group I or II, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has received a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES) or other official certification issued by DOE indicating that your position is surplus, for example, a notice of position abolishment, or a notice stating that you are eligible for discontinued service retirement; or (B) a current DOE employee serving on an excepted service appointment without time limit, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has been issued a certificate of expected separation or other official agency certification indicating that your position is surplus, for example, a notice of position abolishment or a notice stating that you are eligible for discontinued service retirement, and you have been conferred noncompetitive appointment eligibility and special selection priority by statute for positions in the competitive service.

You must submit one of the following with your application as proof of eligibility for this special selection priority: (A) a copy of the RIF separation notice or notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside of the commuting area; (B) Certificate of Expected Separation (CES) or other official notice from DOE indicating that you are surplus or eligible for discontinued service retirement; or (C) other official DOE certification identifying you as being in a surplus organization or occupation.

2. Be applying for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated.
3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This **must** be submitted with your application package.
4. Be currently employed by the DOE in the same commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration; or at DOE's discretion, occupy a position beyond the local

commuting area. An eligible DOE employee outside the local commuting area, can only exercise selection priority when there are no eligible surplus and displaced DOE employees within the local commuting area who apply and are found well qualified.

5. File your application by the Vacancy Announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation, etc.).
6. Individuals who meet eligibility requirements for special selection priority selection under CTAP must be well qualified to receive consideration for special priority selection. CTAP eligibles will be considered well qualified if they attain at least a rating score of 85 in a numerical rating scheme.

**DISPLACED EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY
CONSIDERATION UNDER THE INTERAGENCY CAREER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(ICTAP)**

If you are a displaced Federal employee you may be entitled to receive special priority selection under the ICTAP. To receive this priority consideration you must:

1. Be a displaced Federal employee. You must submit one of the following as proof of eligibility for this special selection priority: a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice, or a notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function to another commuting area; documentation, e.g., SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, showing that you were separated as a result of RIF or for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area; official certification from an agency stating that it cannot place you and your injury compensation has been or is being terminated; official notification from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that your disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or official notification from the Military Department or National Guard Bureau that you have retired under 5 United States Code 8337(h) or 8456. The following categories of candidates are considered displaced employees.
 - A. Current or former career or career-conditional (tenure Group I or II) at the GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below competitive service employees who:
 1. Received a specific **RIF** separation notice; or a notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside the local commuting area;
 2. Separated because of a compensable injury or illness as provided under the provisions of Subchapter I of Chapter 81 of Title 5, United States Code, whose compensation has been terminated, and whose former agency certifies that it is unable to place; or
 3. Retired with a disability under Sections 8337 or 8451 of Title 5, United States Code, and whose disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or
 4. Upon receipt of a RIF separation notice retired **ON** the effective date of the RIF and submits a Standard Form 50 that indicates "Retirement in lieu of RIF"; or
 5. Retired under the discontinued service retirement option; or
 6. Was separated through reduction in force, or removed for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment outside the local commuting area.
 - B. Former Military Reserve or National Guard Technicians who are receiving a special Office of Personnel Management (OPM) disability retirement annuity under Section 8337(h) or 8456 of Title 5, United States Code.

OR

OR

- C. A current Executive Branch agency employee in the excepted service, serving on an appointment without time limit, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has been given noncompetitive appointment eligibility and selection priority by statute for positions in the competitive service, and who is in receipt of a reduction in force separation notice or notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment outside the local commuting area.

OR

- D. A former Executive Branch agency employee in the excepted service, who served on an appointment without time limit, at a GS-15 grade level or equivalent and below, who has been given noncompetitive appointment eligibility and selection priority by statute for positions in the competitive service, and who has been separated through reduction in force or removed for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment outside the local commuting area.
- 2. Be applying for a position at or below the grade level of the position from which you have been separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you were separated.
 - 3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This **must** be submitted with your application package. (This requirement does not apply to candidates who are eligible due to compensable injury or disability retirement.)
 - 4. Occupy or be displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
 - 5. File your application by the Vacancy Announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation, etc.).
 - 6. Individuals who meet eligibility requirements for special selection priority selection under ICTAP must be well qualified to receive consideration for special priority selection. ICTAP eligibles will be considered well qualified if they attain at least a rating score of 85 in a numerical rating scheme.

APPLICANT BACKGROUND SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

PRIVACY INFORMATION

General

The information is provided pursuant to Public Law 935-597 (Privacy Act of 1974), December 31, 1974, for individuals completing Federal records and forms that solicit personal information.

Authority

Sections 1302, 3301, 3304, and 7201 of Title 5 of the U.S. Code.

Purpose and Routine Uses

The information from this survey is used for research and for a Federal equal opportunity recruitment program to help ensure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law.

Effects of Nondisclosure

Providing this information is voluntary. No individual personnel selections are made based on this information.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The information from this survey is used to help ensure that agency personnel practices meet the requirements of Federal law. Your responses are **voluntary**. Please answer each of the questions to the best of your ability. Please print entries in pencil or pen. Use only capital letters. Read each item thoroughly before completing the appropriate code number in each box.

Vacancy Announcement No.: NETL-10-21

Date (Month, Day, Year):

Position: Interdisciplinary: Supervisory General Engineer/Physical Scientist, GS-801/1301-15

Name:

How did you learn about the particular position or exam for which you are applying? (You may circle up to three choices.)

01--Private Information Service

02--Magazine/Newspaper

03--Radio/TV

04--DOE Home Page

05--NETL Home Page

06--OPM USA Jobs

07--Minorities Job Bank

08--Other WEB sites (Specify): _____

09--Hard Copy of Vacancy Announcement

10--Agency Personnel Department

11--FRS-Federal Career Opportunities Listing

12--Federal/State/Local Job Information Center

13--Religious Organization

14--School or College Counselor or Other Official

15--Friend or Relative Working for the Agency

16--Friend or Relative Not Working for Agency

17--State Employment Office (Unemployment Office)

18--Private Employment Office

19--Other (Specify): _____

Please categorize yourself in terms of the race/ethnic category and sex using the definitions below: (Please circle one.)

RACE/ETHNIC CODE:

A--American Indian or Alaskan Native

Person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

B--Asian or Pacific Islander

Person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.

C--Black, Not of Hispanic Origin

Person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

D--Hispanic

Person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

E--White, Not of Hispanic Origin

Person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

SEX: (Please circle one.)

1--Male

2--Female

DISABILITY STATUS: (Please circle one.)

You may submit this form as part of your application package; however, it will be removed upon receipt and forwarded to NETL's Office of the Economic Impact and Diversity Manager.

Disability Status Codes:

05. I do not have a disability.

16. Total deafness in both ears, with or without understandable speech.

23. Inability to read ordinary size print, not correctable by glasses (can read oversize print or use assisting device).

25. Blind in both eyes (no usable vision, may have some light perception).

28. Missing one arm or one leg.

33. Missing both hands or both arms or both feet or both legs.

35. Missing one hand or arm and one foot or leg.

64. Partial paralysis of both hands.

65. Partial paralysis of both legs, any part, or both arms, any part.

67. Partial paralysis of one side of the body, including one arm and one leg.

68. Partial paralysis of three or more major parts of the body (arms and legs).

71. Complete paralysis of both hands or both arms or both legs.

72. Complete paralysis of one arm or one leg.

76. Complete paralysis of lower half of body, including legs.

77. Complete paralysis of one side of body, including one arm and one leg.

78. Complete paralysis of three or more major parts (of body) (arms and legs).

82. Convulsive disorder (e.g., epilepsy).

90. Mental retardation (a chronic and lifelong condition involving a limited ability to learn, to be educated, and to be trained for useful productive employment as certified by a state vocational rehabilitation agency).

91. Mental or emotional illness (a history of treatment for mental or emotional problems).

92. Severe distortion of limbs and/or spine (e.g., dwarfism, severe distortion of the back).

06. I have a disability, but it is not listed above. Describe: